

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 00756 080250Z

71

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 098232

R 080140Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2494

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0756

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, KS, KN

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: A) SEOUL 956; B) CANBERRA 0716

1. I CALLED ON NEWLY-ARRIVED ROK AMBASSADOR LO SUK CHAN FEB 7. HE WENT THROUGH SUBSTANCE OF HIS REMARKS TO MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILLESEE FEB 5, INDICATING THAT HE TOOK VERY TOUGH LINE ON AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA. HE NOTED THAT WILLESEE HAD SAID THAT AUSTRALIA DID NOT INTEND TO BE PUSHED BY BIG POWER (WHICH AMBASSADOR LO TOOK TO MEAN U.S.) OR BE PULLED BY SMALL POWER (WHICH LO TOOK TO MEAN ROK) BUT WOULD CONSIDER AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL INTEREST. LO EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE PUZZLEMENT AS TO WHAT AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL INTEREST COULD POSSIBLY BE SERVED BY AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA, PARTICULARLY AS SIGNIFICANT ROK INTERESTS COULD BE DAMAGED THEREBY.

2. WHILE AMBASSADOR LO APPEARED TO ANTICIPATE THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD, IN NOT DISTANT FUTURE, RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA, DESPITE ROK REPRESENTATIONS, HE LEFT OPEN WHAT HIS OWN COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE. HE SUGGESTED THAT HE MIGHT LEAVE CANBERRA, AS ROK DID NOT NEED TO HAVE AN AMBASSADOR HERE, UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. SEEMED CLEAR HE WAS NOT TALKING OF  
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CLOSING ROK EMBASSY, THOUGH WHEN I ASKED HIM MORE

DIRECTLY WHAT HE WOULD DO IN EVENT OF AUSTRALIAN  
RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA, HE RESPONDED SOMEWHAT  
AIRILY THAT ROK GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY INFORMED  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL IN SEOUL. MUCH OF  
THE STEAM IN THE FOREGOING WAS TAKEN OUT AT END OF  
CONVERSATION WHEN I ASKED AMBASSADOR LO WHEN HIS  
FAMILY WOULD ARRIVE. HE REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD  
ARRIVE IN A WEEK OR SO. SINCE THIS WOULD BE ABOUT  
TIME WHEN AUSTRALIAN ACTION TO RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA  
WOULD PRESUMABLY BE TAKEN, I HAD IMPRESSION ROK WILL  
ACCEPT AUSTRALIAN ACTION GRUDGINGLY BUT WITHOUT  
DOING ANYTHING DRASTIC.  
HARROP

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RECOGNITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1974CANBER00756  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** P740145-2233  
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